

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

605 A switching assembly includes a pair of hollow ties, a pair of supports,
and a linkage. The linkage extends generally through the hollow ties, whereby the
cribs are generally free of linkage components, and the ballast in the cribs can be
compacted with known automated machinery. The linkage includes a number of lugs
and a number of rods, with the rods each being formed from standard bar stock and
threaded, and with the linkage configuration avoiding the need to custom bend any of
610 the rods. The hollow ties are formed from generally available standard box section
steel, as are the supports. The spacing between the hollow ties can be varied in
accordance with the pitch of the other rail ties of the railroad switch. Each hollow tie
can include a heater. The switching assembly is highly adjustable, which makes it
suitable for use in numerous different track configurations.